THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Even though 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the State Governments giving more focused attention to the prevention and control of crimes within their jurisdiction including metropolitan cities, with special emphasis on prevention of crime against vulnerable sections of the society such as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Women and Children.

(b) and (c) The Union Government is implementing a scheme for modernization of State police forces which is aimed at equipping the state police forces adequately to enable them to effectively tackle crimes including threats to internal security, terrorism, communal and other disturbances. The scheme is being closely monitored.

Dabhol Power Project

*424. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal to restart the Dabhol Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating power tariff payable by Government of Maharashtra and Central Government organizations to the consumers; and

(c) the financial viability of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New strategy to tackle Naxalite menace

*425. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are evolving a new strategy following the recent meet of State Chief Secretaries and DGs to tackle the growing menace of naxalism in various States;